

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6, 10-12, 14, and 15 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 13, and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and purely to expedite examination. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications to the canceled subject matter. Applicants canceled claim 1 because, in the Examiner's opinion, claim 1 is a "substantial duplicate" of claim 14. Office action at page 2. Purely for the sake of expediting examination, therefore, Applicants canceled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants also canceled other claims, e.g., claims 7-9 and 16 because the subject matter of those claims is incorporated into new independent claims 4 and 6.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's opinion that claims 2, 14, and 15 are allowed. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion at page 6 of the June 20, 2005, office action, Applicants also have rewritten claims 4 and 6-9 in appropriate independent format, incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim(s) from which they originally depended. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in this format.

Specifically, Applicants amended claim 4 into independent format by incorporating the subject matter of claims 3 and 16. Claim 6 is amended into independent format by incorporating the subject matter of claims 5 and 16. Claims 10-12 are amended to depend from claim 6.

Since claims 3, 5, and 13 are canceled, and since claims 10-12 no longer depend from claim 5, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) at pages 3-5 of the office action are moot.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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